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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/005,985

Applicant(s)

NACEY, GENE E.

Examiner

DENNIS G. BONSHOCK

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

Final Rejection

Response to Amendment

1. It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and placed on record in the file: Amendment as received on 11-21-2008.
2. Claims 1-37 have been examined.

Status of Claims:

3. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuban et al., Patent #4,994,908, hereinafter Kuban and Crawford, Jr., Patent #5,331,549, hereinafter Crawford.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuban et al., Patent #4,994,908, hereinafter Kuban and Crawford, Jr., Patent #5,331,549, hereinafter Crawford.
6. With regard to claim 1, which teaches an apparatus for the graphical display of room information, the apparatus comprising, a display and an arrangement for producing a cell for being viewed on the display, the cell conveying information regarding a room, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3, the display

comprising cells where the cells display information regarding the current status of a room. Kuban further teaches, in column 13, lines 5-55 and in figure 3-5, cells under "CURRENT STATUS" that contain a plurality of modifiable attributes, namely the user can make the selected room status either "Occupied" or "Vacant" and also either "Clean" or "Dirty", these updated statuses are then displayed in the tabular display in the same cell. These room statuses are initially set to preset "historical room status" values before the user begins modifying (see column 13, lines 56-67). A user may set a room to be status "ready/occupied" (or any other attribute/value) which may have not been previously used by the apparatus (such is the case in figure 4). Rooms can have status changes adding additional status information such as a room previously defined to be "Dirty" can be further defined to be "Dirty/occupied" or "Dirty/Vacant". Crawford teaches a system for monitoring remote systems (see abstract), similar to that of Kuban, but further teaches simultaneously displaying patient status information and room status information in a common cell (see column 6, lines 3-27 and figures 3 and 4). Crawford's initial screen displays a plurality of rooms available for selection for closer view and modification (see column 5, line 46 through column 6, line 34 and figures 3 and 4), and the zoom-in screen that calls up details for a particular room, where the user is able to modify attributes (alter the vital sign limits, signs monitored, patient status, etc.) and view other preset attributes (room number, data, time, measured values, etc.) (see column 6, lines 34-59 and figures 3 and 4). In each display of Crawford (floor or in room) a user can see patient (occupant) status information such as vital signs and color coded alert conditions (GREEN for normal; YELLOW for warning; and RET for critical),

and also see room status information such as connection of the system to a room's vital sign sensors (PURPLE used to indicate a disconnect). Also, room status is shown via a position relative to other rooms on the floor and the particular floor the room located on (see column 5, lines 18-25 and in figure 3). Crawford further teaches user-definable attributes (selected via window [72] for display) and pre-set attributes (such as default vital signs displayed before user selection of window [72]); and further teaches user-definable attribute values (see the customizable vital sign limits of column 8, lines 29-40), which may be pre-set attribute values (see the default vital sign limits of column 8, lines 26-29) (see column 8, lines 22-45, column 9, lines 20-27, and figure 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kuban and Crawford before him at the time the invention was made to modify the tabular room status display system of Kuban to include simultaneous display of patient (occupant) status as well as room status, as did Crawford. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because this provides a more detailed view of room on the display, alerting a user to multiple dimensions of room alert data.

7. With regard to claims 2 and 14, which teach an arrangement for producing a matrix for being displayed on the display, the matrix being adapted to depict the rooms for which information is conveyed, said arrangement for producing a cell comprising an arrangement for producing a plurality of cells in conjunction with said matrix, wherein each cell corresponds to a different one of the rooms for which information is conveyed, Kuban further teaches, in column 13, lines 5-55 and in figure 3, a matrix that is used for

depicting the room information where the cells provide information for one or the plurality of rooms.

8. With regard to claims 3, 15, and 26, Kuban teach the system for conveying room information for a plurality of rooms to a remote location in a matrix form (see column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3). Kuban, however, doesn't specifically mention the cells being adapted to display secondary information associated with each attribute of the cell. Crawford teaches a system for monitoring remote systems (see abstract), similar to that of Kuban, but further teaches that upon selection additional information can be displayed for a specific element (see column 2, lines 44-47, column 6, lines 34-47, and figures 3 and 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kuban and Crawford before him at the time the invention was made to modify the remote monitoring system of Kuban to include the focused information screen as did Crawford. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because this would allow for specific information (possibly a summary of room charges, or special services requested) regarding the selected room to be displayed to the people at the manager location.

9. With regard to claims 4, 16, and 28, which teach the secondary information being displayed solely to an authorized user of the apparatus, Kuban further teaches, in column 4, lines 45-61, the manager being able to view specific information, an the maid/inspector being able to see their own specific subset of information.

10. With regard to claims 5 and 17, which teach the cell being adapted to modify an attribute upon a prompt from an authorized user of the apparatus, Kuban further

teaches, in column 3, lines 51-53, the system being capable of input (ex: changing to a cleaned status).

11. With regard to claims 6, 18, and 30, which teach the room being a hospital room, Kuban teaches, in column 5, lines 5-25, the communications or room status being used in a hotel/hospital environment.

12. With regard to claims 7, 19, and 31, which teach the room being a hotel room, Kuban teaches, in column 5, lines 5-25, the communications or room status being used in a hotel/hospital environment.

13 With regard to claims 8, 20, and 32, which teach the cell depicting a bed, Crawford further teaches, in column 2, lines 44-47 and figures 3 and 4, the display of bed information.

14. With regard to claims 9, 21, and 33, which teach the cell indicating if the room is unoccupied, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-39, the cell depicting either a occupied or vacant for the room.

15. With regard to claims 10, 22, and 34, which teach the cell indicating if the room is occupied, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-39, the cell depicting either a occupied or vacant for the room.

16. With regard to claims 11, 23, and 35, which teach the cell indicating whether the room is in a stat condition, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 46-51, the matrix displaying a need to be made up indication.

17. With regard to claims 12, 24, and 36, which teach the cell indicating whether a bed within the room is being made, column 4, lines 40-45, the system knowing that a room is in the process of being made up/inspected.

18. With regard to claim 13, which teaches an apparatus for the graphical display of room information, the apparatus comprising, a display and an arrangement for producing a cell for being viewed on the display, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3, the display comprising cells where the cells display information regarding the current status of a room. With regard to claim 13, further teaching the cell having a plurality of modifiable attributes, and a controller for modifying the modifiable attributes, Kuban further teaches, in column 15, line 42 through column 16, line 2, the maid going through the process in which a worker enters their ID, and enters the room for processing, thereby changing the status of the room. Kuban further teaches, in column 13, lines 5-55 and in figure 3-5, cells under "CURRENT STATUS" that contain a plurality of modifiable attributes, namely the user can make the selected room status either "Occupied" or "Vacant" and also either "Clean" or "Dirty", these updated statuses are then displayed in the tabular display in the same cell. These room statuses are initially set to preset "historical room status" values before the user begins modifying (see column 13, lines 56-67). A user may set a room to be status "ready/occupied" (or any other attribute/value) which may have not been previously used by the apparatus (such is the case in figure 4). Rooms can have status changes adding additional status information such as a room previously defined to be "Dirty" can be further defined to be "Dirty/occupied" or "Dirty/Vacant". Crawford teaches a system for monitoring remote

systems (see abstract), similar to that of Kuban, but further teaches simultaneously displaying patient status information and room status information in a common cell (see column 6, lines 3-27 and figures 3 and 4). Crawford's initial screen displays a plurality of rooms available for selection for closer view and modification (see column 5, line 46 through column 6, line 34 and figures 3 and 4), and the zoom-in screen that calls up details for a particular room, where the user is able to modify attributes (alter the vital sign limits, signs monitored, patient status, etc.) and view other preset attributes (room number, data, time, measured values, etc.) (see column 6, lines 34-59 and figures 3 and 4). In each display of Crawford (floor or in room) a user can see patient (occupant) status information such as vital signs and color coded alert conditions (GREEN for normal; YELLOW for warning; and RET for critical), and also see room status information such as connection of the system to a rooms vital sign sensors (PURPLE used to indicate a disconnect). Also, room status is shown via a position relative to other rooms on the floor and the particular floor the room located on (see column 5, lines 18-25 and in figure 3). Crawford further teaches user-definable attributes (selected via window [72] for display) and pre-set attributes (such as default vital signs displayed before user selection of window [72]); and further teaches user-definable attribute values (see the customizable vital sign limits of column 8, lines 29-40), which may be pre-set attribute values (see the default vital sign limits of column 8, lines 26-29) (see column 8, lines 22-45, column 9, lines 20-27, and figure 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kuban and Crawford before him at the time the invention was made to modify the tabular room status display

system of Kuban to include simultaneous display of patient (occupant) status as well as room status, as did Crawford. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because this provides a more detailed view of room on the display, alerting a user to multiple dimensions of room alert data.

19. With regard to claim 25, which teaches a method of graphically displaying room information, the method comprising, the displaying a matrix, Kuban teaches, in figure 3, the display of a matrix of rooms with associated status information. With regard to claim 25, further teaching a display and an arrangement for producing a cell, in the matrix, for being viewed on the display, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3, the display comprising cells where the cells display information regarding the current status of a room. With regard to claim 25, further teaching the cell having a plurality of modifiable attributes, and a controller for modifying the modifiable attributes, Kuban further teaches, in column 15, line 42 through column 16, line 2, the method going through the process in which a worker enters their ID, and enters the room for processing, thereby changing the status of the room. Kuban further teaches, in column 13, lines 5-55 and in figure 3-5, cells under "CURRENT STATUS" that contain a plurality of modifiable attributes, namely the user can make the selected room status either "Occupied" or "Vacant" and also either "Clean" or "Dirty", these updated statuses are then displayed in the tabular display in the same cell. These room statuses are initially set to preset "historical room status" values before the user begins modifying (see column 13, lines 56-67). A user may set a room to be status "ready/occupied" (or any other attribute/value) which may have not been previously used by the apparatus (such

is the case in figure 4). Rooms can have status changes adding additional status information such as a room previously defined to be "Dirty" can be further defined to be "Dirty/Occupied" or "Dirty/Vacant". Crawford teaches a system for monitoring remote systems (see abstract), similar to that of Kuban, but further teaches simultaneously displaying patient status information and room status information in a common cell (see column 6, lines 3-27 and figures 3 and 4). Crawford's initial screen displays a plurality of rooms available for selection for closer view and modification (see column 5, line 46 through column 6, line 34 and figures 3 and 4), and the zoom-in screen that calls up details for a particular room, where the user is able to modify attributes (alter the vital sign limits, signs monitored, patient status, etc.) and view other preset attributes (room number, data, time, measured values, etc.) (see column 6, lines 34-59 and figures 3 and 4). In each display of Crawford (floor or in room) a user can see patient (occupant) status information such as vital signs and color coded alert conditions (GREEN for normal; YELLOW for warning; and RET for critical), and also see room status information such as connection of the system to a rooms vital sign sensors (PURPLE used to indicate a disconnect). Also, room status is shown via a position relative to other rooms on the floor and the particular floor the room located on (see column 5, lines 18-25 and in figure 3). Crawford further teaches user-definable attributes (selected via window [72] for display) and pre-set attributes (such as default vital signs displayed before user selection of window [72]); and further teaches user-definable attribute values (see the customizable vital sign limits of column 8, lines 29-40), which may be pre-set attribute values (see the default vital sign limits of column 8, lines 26-29)

(see column 8, lines 22-45, column 9, lines 20-27, and figure 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kuban and Crawford before him at the time the invention was made to modify the tabular room status display system of Kuban to include simultaneous display of patient (occupant) status as well as room status, as did Crawford. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because this provides a more detailed view of room on the display, alerting a user to multiple dimensions of room alert data.

20. With regard to claim 27, which teaches that the display of secondary information is restricted, Kuban further teaches, in column 4, lines 51-61, additional information that is only available to system managers upon sign-on.

21. With regard to claim 29, which teach authorization of a user being determined by comparing a password provided by the user to a databank of passwords, Kuban further teaches, in column 15, lines 42-61, the user entering an access code and ID to implement the system.

22. With regard to claim 37, which teaches a program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for the graphical display of room information, the method comprising, the displaying a matrix, Kuban teaches, in figure 3, the display of a matrix of rooms with associated status information. With regard to claim 37, further teaching a display and an arrangement for producing a cell, in the matrix, Kuban teaches, in column 4, lines 30-61 and in figure 3, the display comprising cells where the cells display information regarding the current status of a room. With regard to claim 37,

further teaching the cell having a plurality of modifiable attributes, and a controller for modifying the modifiable attributes, Kuban further teaches, in column 15, line 42 through column 16, line 2, the maid going through the process in which a worker enters their ID, and enters the room for processing, thereby changing the status of the room. Kuban further teaches, in column 13, lines 5-55 and in figure 3-5, cells under "CURRENT STATUS" that contain a plurality of modifiable attributes, namely the user can make the selected room status either "Occupied" or "Vacant" and also either "Clean" or "Dirty", these updated statuses are then displayed in the tabular display in the same cell. These room statuses are initially set to preset "historical room status" values before the user begins modifying (see column 13, lines 56-67). A user may set a room to be status "ready/occupied" (or any other attribute/value) which may have not been previously used by the apparatus (such is the case in figure 4). Rooms can have status changes adding additional status information such as a room previously defined to be "Dirty" can be further defined to be "Dirty/occupied" or "Dirty/Vacant". Crawford teaches a system for monitoring remote systems (see abstract), similar to that of Kuban, but further teaches simultaneously displaying patient status information and room status information in a common cell (see column 6, lines 3-27 and figures 3 and 4). Crawford's initial screen displays a plurality of rooms available for selection for closer view and modification (see column 5, line 46 through column 6, line 34 and figures 3 and 4), and the zoom-in screen that calls up details for a particular room, where the user is able to modify attributes (alter the vital sign limits, signs monitored, patient status, etc.) and view other preset attributes (room number, data, time, measured values, etc.) (see

column 6, lines 34-59 and figures 3 and 4). In each display of Crawford (floor or in room) a user can see patient (occupant) status information such as vital signs and color coded alert conditions (GREEN for normal; YELLOW for warning; and RET for critical), and also see room status information such as connection of the system to a rooms vital sign sensors (PURPLE used to indicate a disconnect). Also, room status is shown via a position relative to other rooms on the floor and the particular floor the room located on (see column 5, lines 18-25 and in figure 3). Crawford further teaches user-definable attributes (selected via window [72] for display) and pre-set attributes (such as default vital signs displayed before user selection of window [72]); and further teaches user-definable attribute values (see the customizable vital sign limits of column 8, lines 29-40), which may be pre-set attribute values (see the default vital sign limits of column 8, lines 26-29) (see column 8, lines 22-45, column 9, lines 20-27, and figure 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Kuban and Crawford before him at the time the invention was made to modify the tabular room status display system of Kuban to include simultaneous display of patient (occupant) status as well as room status, as did Crawford. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because this provides a more detailed view of room on the display, alerting a user to multiple dimensions of room alert data.

Response to Arguments

The arguments filed on 11-21-2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Reasons set forth below.

The Applicants' argue that the Crawford reference doesn't teach simultaneous display of patient status data and room status data.

In response, the Examiner respectfully submits that Crawford teaches simultaneously displaying patient status information and room status information in a common cell (see column 6, lines 3-27 and figures 3 and 4). In each display of Crawford (floor or in room) a user can see patient (occupant) status information such as vital signs and color coded alert conditions (GREEN for normal; YELLOW for warning; and RET for critical), and also see room status information such as connection of the system to a rooms specific vital sign sensors (PURPLE used to indicate a disconnect). Additionally note that the claims state "status information regarding a room", where any of various features could read on a room status, such as its position relative to other rooms on the floor and the particular floor the room located on (see column 5, lines 18-25 and in figure 3), these in addition to the showing if there even is a patient connected to a monitor showing alert conditions.

The Applicants' argue that the Crawford's status of a connection is patient status information not room status information.

In response, the Examiner respectfully submits if the monitor is not showing any information specific to the patient (it is not even connected to the patient), then this information is more so relevant to the room. Example case: the patient has gone for a CAT scan or some other medical procedure that can't be administered in the patient room. The patient is thereby disconnected from the monitors leaving the disconnected

(purple) representation in the central monitoring system, informing hospital staff the a patient in not currently requiring medical attention in the room.

The Applicants' argue that the room status would not be useful to the medical hospital staff.

In response, the Examiner respectfully submits that Medical staff at a hospital would care about room status as they would know that a vacant room / room with monitors disconnected would not require monitor of a patient. They would also find such information valuable so as not to provide a room to a patient without a eminent need when a much higher need patient is available.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS G. BONSHOCK whose telephone number is (571)272-4047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dennis Chow can be reached on (571) 272-7767. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dennis G. Bonshock/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2173
2-11-09
dgb